

Coming Today! To a Storm Drain Near You!

Fairfax County

Storm Drain Education Program

About this project...

Elementary students participating in a summer environmental stewardship camp are labeling the storm drains at Fred Crabtree Park, Crossfield Elementary School and in your community. Labels on each storm drain remind us to keep storm drains and our streams clean. The project has been approved by the Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Why label storm drains?

Storm drains prevent flooding of roads and neighborhoods. Unlike water from our sinks and toilet, water flowing into storm drains is not treated.



Storm drains connect directly to our streams.

Trash, pet waste, motor oil, paint and other materials dumped or washed into storm drains pollute your local stream, Difficult Run, as well as the Potomac River, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Pollution through the storm drains, also called stormwater runoff or nonpoint source pollution, is the #1 cause of impairment in the Chesapeake Bay.

What can you do to protect your local stream and Bay?

- ✓ **Take care of your car, the Bay-friendly way.** Make sure your car is in good working condition and is not leaking fluids. Carpool or bike when possible. Wash your car on the lawn with no-phosphate soap or take it to the car wash where the water is cleaned and recycled. Recycle used motor oil at your local gas station.
- ✓ **Make sure nothing goes down the storm drain except water.** Adopt your local storm drain and keep it clear of trash and debris, dispose of pet waste in your trash can or toilet, and dispose of paint and other hazardous home chemicals properly. More information can be found at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphhw.htm>
- ✓ **Create a sustainable landscape.** Get your soil tested (kits available at your public library) before applying chemicals, including fertilizer, to your lawn. For most lawn types, fertilizing once yearly in fall is all your lawn needs. Try using Virginia native plants in your landscape to further reduce your outdoor chemical needs. Compost yard debris. Direct downspouts to vegetated areas to prevent erosion.

Questions? Call 703-324-1423, TTY 711 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd>.

Sponsored by Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and Virginia Department of Transportation-Northern Virginia District.